



## Josh Geballe

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

March 20, 2020

Mr. Gian-Carl Casa  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
The Alliance  
75 Charter Oak Avenue, Suite 1-100  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Mr. Casa:

Thank you for your letter of March 12 regarding concerns of the state's nonprofit providers in light of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Please be assured that the staff and services of the non-profit provider community and the health and safety of the clients they serve is of paramount concern to the Governor and the entire administration since this pandemic began.

The Commissioners of the state agencies that contract with your providers to provide critical health and human services have identified many of the same issues you raised in your letter and we are working to address these concerns as quickly as possible. We continue to review the federal bills and various Medicaid authorities for opportunities and impacts.

We recognize that social distancing policies are creating a need for state agencies and their nonprofit partners to be creative and flexible – maintaining programs (both grant-funded and fee-for-service) that are currently not providing services to any, or as many, clients as they did previously or expending funding for services that had not been envisioned in contracts or Medicaid waivers.

Earlier this week, Secretary McCaw reviewed a compilation of health and human services policy and fiscal issues that have been so identified thus far and approved. To date, the following have been approved:

- DSS - Suspend Medicaid eligibility discontinuances for 3, 6 or 9 months (for 3 months)
- DSS - Provide uninsured persons with coverage for COVID-19 – Citizens
- DSS - Waive Medicare Part D (Rx) copays for dually eligible
- DSS - Provide 90-day supply for most prescription drugs and more flexible pharmacy early refill
- DSS - Waive HUSKY B copays
- DSS - Waive SNAP requirement for face-to-face interviews
- DSS - Waive SNAP requirements – extend certification periods by 90 days, suspend collection of most SNAP overpayments, issue supplemental benefits to all existing SNAP households
- DSS - Waive TFA requirement for face-to-face interviews and assessments
- DSS - Expand telehealth under Medicaid
- DPH - School-Based Health Centers – no kids will be getting services while schools are closed, but staff need to be paid

- DDS - Day programs - need to pay providers for not working in order to ensure staff are still in place when day programs reopen
- DDS - Allowable costs for expenses vs. returning the payments because services were not delivered
- DMHAS - Allowable costs for expenses vs. returning the payments because services were not delivered
- DCF - Allowable costs for expenses vs. returning the payments because services were not delivered
- DCF - Foster care - expanded day care opportunities if both foster parents work
- DCF - Children in Group Homes go to public schools. Need to staff residential programs while schools are closed
- MIL - State Active Duty to ready the Mobile Field Hospital to perform missions for public health

I am sure you saw it, but I am also including a copy of the March 17<sup>th</sup> guidance from Commissioner Scheff explaining how DDS intends to reimburse the day and residential providers through the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Secretary will review additional items on the list with the Governor for final resolution. As soon as those decisions are made, they will be communicated to relevant Commissioners and we expect that you and the impacted nonprofit providers will be notified.

Specifically, with respect to adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) and where to bring infected individuals, Connecticut has ordered additional PPE from the Strategic National Stockpile. Some items are on back order but should be arriving in the state very soon. In the meantime, a plan of action is being devised to most efficiently and equitably distribute the equipment throughout the state and the needs of your providers are being taken into consideration in that plan.

And with respect to what to do with infected clients, that process is different by service and provider type. But we are working to mitigate exposure through testing of staff as they enter client settings and limiting client and staff movement as much as possible. Specific plans need to be discussed with the various state agencies.

But as you know many of the providers are represented on the workgroups operating out of incident command process established as a result of the Governor's Emergency Declaration so there is also opportunity for them to raise their specific issues through that process.

We appreciate your letter and recognize that it is critically important for the Lamont administration to work closely with the state's nonprofit providers so that we ensure that staff and the state's most vulnerable residents who are served by these organizations come through this public health emergency both financially and physically healthy. We expect that state agencies are continuously communicating any updates they receive and expect that will continue through this uncertain time.

Thank you for your commitment to providing critical health and human services to Connecticut residents every day.

Sincerely,



Josh Geballe  
Chief Operating Officer